

TREATMENT OF SCOTTISH HISTORY

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by French visitors are much more favourable than those by Englishmen. Half the English travellers were excessively hostile, and many laboured to make the country and its people ridiculous. Their descriptions of the Lowlands remind one of Macaulay's description of the Highlands.

It is clear, however, that their tempers were soured, not merely by religious or political animosity to the Scots, but by the discomforts of travelling in Scotland. 'I must confess, I was too impatient at the Scotch victuals/' said Thoresby.¹ 'They have neither good bread, cheese, or drink/' complained Ray.² 'They cannot make them, nor will they learn/' The sluttishness and nastiness of this people is such ', reported an earlier tourist, 'that I cannot omit the particularizing thereof/'³ The fact is the poverty of Scotland produced a lower standard of living than in England, not merely different manners, and both were obstacles to the intercourse of the two nations.

Other evidence of a more impartial but duller nature is supplied by books of household accounts,⁴ by judicial records,⁵ by local records of various kinds,⁶ and by private correspondence. There are also collections of extracts and documents arranged either in the form of annals or

¹ Tours in Scotland, 1677 and 1681, p. 50.

-Memorials of John Ray (1846), p. 153.

³Journal of Sir William Brereton, 1635, in North Country Diaries (1915),
ii. p. 32.

⁴Account Book of Sir John Foulis of Ravelston, 1671-1707,
ed. A. W. C.
Hallen (1894) ; The Household Book of Lady Grisell
Baillie, 1692-1733,
ed. R. Scott-Moncrieff (1911).

⁵The Records of the Proceedings of the Justiciary Court,
Edinburgh,
1661-1678, ed. R. Scott-Moncrieff (2 vols. ; 1904-5).

⁶The Court Book of the Barony of Urie, 1604-1747, ed. D.
G. Barren
(1892) ; Records of the Baron Court of Stinchell, 1655-1807,
ed. C. B. Gunn
(1905) ; Records of the Convention of Royal Burghs of
Scotland, 1295-1738,
ed. J. D. Marwick (6 vols.; 1866-90) ; and the Publications
of the Scottish
Burgh Records Society.